

# THE ST. JOSEPH OBSERVER.

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## HE WAS DEAD FOR THREE HOURS BUT NOW HE LIVES

### Jack Duncan Is Struck by a Fiery Bolt from the Sky and Laid Low

#### His Umbrella Acted as a Conductor for the Electric Fluid and Nearly Proves His Undoing

John Remus Duncan, whom his hundreds of friends all over the Platte Purchase love to call "Jack," certainly bears a charmed life—or for that matter several of them—in fact more than the proverbial eagle for he has had more death escapades than any man that inhabits this part of the Lord's moral vineyard. He has had so many escapes that it has become second nature to him and if he does not have a ring-tailed circus at least once a year in which Old Death acts as ringmaster and Jack as clown, he feels that he has been mistreated and badly misused.

Jack is a brother to Judge A. B. Duncan, probate judge of this county, (which fact should not be held against Jack as he cannot help it) and lives at Edgerton in Platte county. He is almost as well known here as his more upstanding brother, the Judge, as he visits this city every few days and has regularly done so throughout the fifty odd years of his life.

Jack's residence is situated at the edge of the little city, where he can have room to turn round, clean his feet and raise a few spring fryers on the side.

His Fourth of July Stunt

Well, on the morning of the Glorious Fourth, it rained in Edgerton, Platte county, just the same as it did up here at St. Joseph, and it disappointed the little ones there just as it did those up here. The wet rain also started to wet down Jack's afore-said spring fryers, and right here he made the almost fatal mistake of going out to the chicken lot at the back of the house and putting them under shelter instead of sending his dutiful wife out to do the job.

Armed with an old umbrella that had a steel rod for a handle, he started across the chicken yard just as the storm with its thunder and lightning accompaniments broke loose. Across the chicken yard is stretched a steel wire clothes line, which Mrs. Duncan alone manipulates on each Monday. This steel clothes line somehow on that day manifested a disposition to accumulate bolts of lightning, and when the tip of Jack's steel rodged umbrella accidentally touched the wire, something happened, for Jack collapsed and went to the ground like one shot—and he laid there for never had man received a more full-fledged broadside from above more than he. The bolt had run along the wire and Jack's umbrella touching the wire as the bolt came along deflected it down the handle and through Jack's body.

Picked Up For Dead

People who had seen him fall rushed to his side and carried him into his home. He was to all intents and purposes not breathing and it was over an hour before it was noticeable that life still remained and over three hours before physicians could restore him to consciousness. The first physician called, after an examination stated that he was dead and went on his way. A second physician after a more comprehensive examination discovered a trace of life and set to work with the result that after three hours hard labor he had the satisfaction of seeing the "dead man" open his eyes and knew that he would live. Mr. Duncan was still weak on yesterday when last heard from, but will recover. When picked up his face was entirely black and a large part of his body was in like condition. His escape like that of his other tunnels with Death was a most remarkable one.

Ed Coons of the local post office, an old schoolmate of Duncan's, has not as yet decided fully as to the state of his mind toward Duncan, for the fact is that Jack by not going hence spoiled a good story for Mr. Coons. "You see it is this way," said Mr. Coons, "Jack and a young fellow named Walters and I all went to our first school together, down at a country school house near Camden Point. That in itself is not very remarkable as none of us has ever been elected president or even attained to the dignity of making a three time

clatter down the presidential race course like Bill Bryan, but here is where my interest lies. Walters was killed several years ago by a stroke of lightning. Then on Monday they inform me that Jack had met a like fate. Don't you see how it is? Three of us old schoolmates—two of them killed by lightning—I alone remain—and then to have such a good story spoiled by Jack's fluke?"

## R. VIENTAGE DROWNED

### Young Man Who Drove Machine When Father Was Killed Goes Down in Platte.

About a month ago as Raymond P. Vientage, a young man residing near Garrettsburg, was driving his father, Garrett P. Vientage, in a car on the Barton road, he collided with a car driven by Henry Pippet of this city, and the father was killed.

On Monday young Vientage with two of his brothers went fishing in the Platte near his home. Before starting home they decided to take a swim and the young man getting beyond his depth and not being able to swim, was drowned. The body was recovered a short time after the accident. He leaves his mother, three brothers, and four sisters.

## JUDGE GRAY HAD SEVENTY CASES

When Judge Gray's police court opened Tuesday morning, it looked as though about half of St. Joseph and surrounding territory was there in some capacity or other—principally the former. Judge Gray's docket showed over seventy cases, all of which were disposed of, they ranging from drunk to traffic violations. The most important cases were disposed of were S. K. Bridges, 1804 South Ninth street, driving recklessly and striking a girl, fined \$20.

Lloyd Sprake, DeKalb, disregarding traffic signals, fined \$5.

Charles Tuttle, 1809 St. Joseph avenue, driving past a loading street car, fined \$10.

Louis Motter, Jr., driving recklessly, fined \$25.

S. P. Adams, Thirty-sixth and Mesquite streets, speeding, fined \$25 by default.

Arthur Mann, 2128 South Ninth street, riding a motorcycle with cut-out open, fined \$10.

W. J. Bowen, 6424 Carnegie street, driving past a loading street car, fined \$10.

Pete Mitakell, 314 Arizona avenue, driving past a loading street car, fined \$10.

C. W. Fletcher, 601 Albemarle street, speeding, fined \$15 by default.

## CHIEF MACDONALD RAISES THE ANTE

Chief of Police MacDonald has decided that the amount of bond asked in many cases was not sufficient, and so on Monday he put in a new schedule in which the following advances apply:

Keepers of gambling houses, from \$25 to \$250; players, from \$10 to \$100; driving motor cars while under the influence of liquor, from \$50 to \$200; sounding exhaust whistles or sirens on motor cars, from \$10 to \$50; motor speeding, from \$15 to \$25; running motor cars with the cutouts open, from \$5 to \$25; disturbing the peace, from \$10 to \$25; drunks, from \$3 to \$25; keepers of immoral houses, from \$50 to \$250; female inmates, from \$25 to \$100; men frequenters, from \$25 to \$100; streetwalkers, from \$25 to \$100.

## PARK BOARD PRESENTS ITS PLANS

At the meeting of the city council Tuesday night, the park board presented its new plans for the park and boulevard system to be completed. The scheme contemplates the purchase of about 500 acres of land and the expense of the improvement will be about \$500,000. Of course the usual statement is included, that it will cost the small property owner "but little as he will pay hardly anything in taxes," etc., etc.

## NOW THE MAYOR BALKS

### Ask the Circuit Judges Not to Approve What His Attorneys Agreed Should be Done.

At the last moment—after all of the warring elements had been pacified and an agreement reached between the city representatives and the street railway people that is satisfactory to both sides, Mayor Marshall simply because he dislikes certain things and men is trying to break up the good work of his own committee through the pretense of standing out for the "deer people" on the claim that they are not going to get all that they should have. The only good feature is that the mayor cannot accomplish anything, for four members of the council who made the agreement with the street railway people will pass it over his head if he yokes it. Mayor Marshall on Thursday, in a letter to Judges Vories and Allen who sat on the bench in the hearing, asking them not to diminish the street railway cases was agreed between the attorneys and city attorney and the street railway people, until his attorney, City Counselor Lindsay, gave the word.

By the terms of an agreement made between the city and the railway people, the railway company agreed to charge an eight cent single fare or sell three tokens for 20 cents. Children's fares will remain as they are at 4 cents per ride. The power rates of the company will also be reduced approximately 11 per cent.

In this connection it is interesting to note that on Thursday General Manager B. C. Adams of the street railway made public the operations of the company for the month of June, which showed that the electric department had receipts of \$20,215 more than its expenditures; and the live steam department made a net profit of \$54. On the other hand the street railway lacked \$21,245 of earning expenses, which taken from the net earnings show that the company lacked \$3,259 of paying running expenses for the month of June. Mr. Adams believes when the new rate of fare is put in, that the street railway earnings will pick up at once.

The best thing that the council has done for months was the introduction with an agreement to pass it, of an ordinance Wednesday night to regulate the irresponsible jitneys. There were half a dozen jitney accidents last week and not a person injured can recover a cent, neither can they punish the offender, for they are law and damage proof. The ordinance introduced Wednesday night provides that they shall give a bond of \$10,000 for each vehicle to protect passengers against accidents; shall not charge over 10 cents for a fare; shall not carry more people than can be comfortably seated; shall keep off of the streets where there are trolley tracks except Sixth street and King, Hill Avenue south of Atchison street; St. Joseph Avenue north of Highland avenue; and Hyde Park Avenue east of Third. The ordinance is a good one and will protect the people.

The other ordinance introduced the same night empowers City Counselor Lindsay and the city's special counsel, Messrs. Culver, Phillip & Voehles, to go before the state public utility commission with the street railway people and request an order putting in effect the new rates agreed upon.

The people of St. Joseph in general are pleased with the agreement reached—and feel that all interests have been cared for and protected.

## WON THE PARADE PRIZES

The parade Monday forenoon was a most elaborate affair, despite the rain of the early part of it, and several thousand were in line. The float prizes were awarded as follows: Best commercial float, street railway company, the Goddess of Liberty, represented by Miss Amelia Dunn; motor cars, first, Mrs. E. C. Burke; second, Mrs. T. E. Magill; third, Miss Mary Downey; bicycles, first, Harry White of 2141 St. Joseph avenue; second, Chester Bucher, 510 Francis street. In the absence of the judges appointed originally, Mrs. S. R. Solomon and E. E. Humphrey made the selections.

## HYDE WOULD CUT COLLECTOR'S SALARY

If a message submitted by Gov. Hyde to the legislature yesterday is acted upon favorably, County Collector J. Porter Britte stands to lose a good part of his salary. The governor's message says that collectors are drawing too much salary and he wants all of them cut to \$3,500 per annum.

## GOP EXTRAVAGANCE OPPOSED BY PARTY PAPERS

### WHO THREATEN TO REVOLT IF A STOP IS NOT PUT TO WASTE

#### A LEADING OHIO JOURNAL READS THE RIOT ACT

The Philadelphia Public Ledger Joins the New York Herald and Others of the Great Republican Papers of the East and in Language That Cannot be Misinterpreted or Misunderstood Tells the Leaders of the Party That They Must Give the People Relief.

WASHINGTON, July 7.—(Special Correspondence.)—Opposition of Republican newspapers to Republican extravagance in appropriations and expenditures is beginning to develop, although the administration has been in office less than four months.

A conspicuous instance of revolt is found in the editorial columns of the Akron (O.) Beacon Journal.

Referring to the passage of the French naval budget, just passed, which carries only \$113,000,000, as against our appropriation of nearly a half billion dollars, the Beacon Journal says:

"This should be enough to cause us to pause for thought. But we are not going to do it. We are going to load the people down with useless taxes, we are going to spend a billion and a quarter for war (nearly a billion) when the people need bread and apparently we do not care what they think about it. Such madness is almost inconceivable and if the party now in power thinks it is going to escape an accounting at the hands of the people it is sadly mistaken. It can serve the interests of the ship

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## THE FOURTH WAS PROPERLY CELEBRATED

Despite the threatening weather and the rain which fell in the forenoon, the celebration of the Glorious Fourth in St. Joseph was all that could be desired. Toward noon the weather cleared, and a monster civic parade was held over the principal streets winding up at Smith Park where J. R. Clay read the Declaration of Independence, and Judge A. B. Duncan and Mayor Marshall spoke. At night there was a big display of fireworks on Noyes Boulevard. There was a tremendous crowd at Lake Contrary, and a special programme. There were a number of celebrations held by different societies and organizations.

## MELVIN BINSWANGER TO GO TO FRANCE

Melvin E. Binswanger of this city, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Simon Binswanger, has been selected by Gov. Hyde as one of a commission of seven members to carry out the legislative act appropriating \$25,000 for the erection of a monument in France to the Missouri soldiers who fell there. The commission members are Lieut. M. E. Binswanger, St. Joseph; Col. Albert Linxwiler, Jefferson City; Col. Ruby D. Garrett and Charles W. Bartlett, Kansas City; John L. Williams, Joplin; Hall Van Osdel, Brookfield, and Maj. Norman B. Comfort, St. Louis. Messrs. Binswanger, Bartlett and Comfort will sail shortly for France where they will locate the site of the monument, and arrange for its construction.

## NEARLY \$50,000 FOR THE AUDITORIUM

At the luncheon of the Ad Club on Wednesday, Horace Merritt, author of the municipal court bill, discussed the question and declared that now that the bill was passed Gov. Hyde and the county court wanted to do away with the court by declaring it unconstitutional—but it would be tested. The taking over of the Auditorium was also discussed and Harry Block stated that it would require \$20,000 to \$25,000 for repairing in addition to the \$25,000 for the debt.

## SOCKED IT TO THE SPEEDERS

Police Judge Gray had a field day Thursday with the speed maniacs and infractors of the various traffic regulations. As a result of his work eleven speeders paid \$15 each, they being J. H. Hetrick, L. M. Rhoades, James Sherman, Frank Towle, Dennis Aubuchon, H. A. Slaybaugh, Francis Burri, Frank Rapado, M. Britte, Ben Feeney and Frank Billster.

## THE DONKEY AND THE ELEPHANT

The farmer sat in his easy chair, when the donkey ruled the state, He puffed away on his pipe of clay, and was happy with his mate. His hogs were high, his cattle too, his wheat and corn were good; He took his ease, worked as he pleased, as any good farmer should. His taxes were low and he had the dough, to pay when they were due.

He never howled and he never growled, for the donkey had been true. But don't it beat all, one day last fall, the farmer with his mate, Went to the polls and bless your souls, said the elephant should rule the state. The elephant has ruled the farmer's food, and with his trunk you know He wiggled into the farmer's bin and demanded all his dough. The farmer sits in his chair no more, and his pipe he has laid aside. He feeling blue, but in Twenty-two, he will get the elephant's hide. J. I. H.

## WHAT DOES THE WORD FREEDOM STAND FOR?

### AN OPPORTUNITY GIVEN TO FIGURE OUT THE REAL MEANING OF IT

## SOMETHING THAT REAL AMERICANS CAN STUDY

The tendency toward socialism is shown in the way in which all modern life and activity are inextricably knit together so that all individual acts affect the lives of the entire community.

To the Editor of The Observer:

Words are the signs or symbols of ideas, that is, the names that have been given to ideas. Whenever a word is used it is intended to call up the idea for which it stands. In order then for a word to have the same meaning among all the people using that particular language, it must call forth or picture to the mind of each one hearing it, the same idea or mental image. In most common words this is of course the case, as for instance in using such words as horse, cow, dog, and man, everybody at once knows exactly what is meant. These words call up the same mental picture to each one hearing them. But there are numerous other words in common use, representing or symbolizing more or less abstract ideas, and which we use frequently and with perfect confidence in our ability to fully define, and yet when we undertake the definition of them we find their meaning somewhat vague, illusive, and hard to get hold of clearly, even for ourselves, and almost impossible to transmit to others. For this reason a great many of these words come to represent altogether different ideas to different minds.

## The Word Freedom

With this thought in mind let us examine some of these words that seem to have such different meanings for different people. Let us commence with the word, Freedom. To my mind this word freedom can mean but one thing, the absence of control by an external force, that is, the absence of either restraint or compulsion. A man said to be free must have the power to act or refrain from acting solely of his own volition, without let or hindrance. That is to say, may absolutely do as he pleases. If we consider one man as having the right to do as he pleases, then we must also allow this same right to all other men, and we would have a community of men all claiming the right to do as they please.

## Would Be An Impossible State

We at once see that this would be an impossible state of affairs that would result in constant turmoil and strife, because with nothing to check him, a man would constantly be doing things that someone else would

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## AS EDITOR FRED WORDEN SAW THE SOUTH

### WHAT HE THINKS OF THE TRIP THAT THE AD CLUB ENJOYED

#### NOT IMPRESSED WITH CHATTANOOGA WELCOME

But When Atlanta Was Reached the Pilgrims Were Made to Feel That All of the Sore Spots Were Anointed With Oil and That the Wine of Genuine Hospitality of the True Southern Vintage Was Uncolored and Unleashed in Never Failing Quantity.

It may be a trifle late to give an account of the trip of the St. Joseph Advertising Club to Atlanta—but there is a reason for it—and that is that the true story is just out—has been released by Fred Worden, advertising manager of The Leader, who is also editor of Black and White, the official organ of the Advertising Club. It is his account that is printed in the current issue of Black and White of Thursday which was waited for—and which explains fully why this article is late—but the true story. There is much of interest to St. Joseph in his well written narrative, and here it is just as Editor Worden dashed it off. He says:

"On Friday evening, June 10th, fourteen delegates representing the St. Joseph Advertising Club, escorted by a large number of club members, left the St. Francis Hotel in automobiles for the depot, headed by special music.

"After a royal sendoff at the station, the delegates boarded the train for St. Louis, where they were entertained all day Saturday as guests of the St. Louis Advertising Club.

"The 'bunch' were all in high spirits and everybody knew they were in St. Louis. The roof garden at the Hotel Statler was a scene of merriment, and the manager soon discovered that the St. Joseph bunch were

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## PASSING OF PETER REIPLINGER

There passed from earth on last Friday night Peter Reiplinger, who for over a half century was one of the best known citizens of St. Joseph. His death occurred at a local hospital as the aftermath of an operation performed some days previous. He was 76 years of age and was born in Germany Jan. 19, 1845, coming here in 1865, after his marriage to Miss Margaret Horner, who passed away 19 years ago. After her death he made his home with his daughter, Mrs. M. O. Hamer, 722 Mt. Mora Road. He leaves to mourn the death of a real father, four daughters and two sons, Mrs. M. O. Hamer, Mrs. William Dorrel, Mrs. Berent Springsted and Mrs. John W. Papp, all of this city, and J. A. and O. M. Reiplinger, both of this city. The funeral occurred Monday from his late home, conducted by Rev. J. A. McClung, and was very largely attended.

## GEORGE HOLTAM'S LONG EXPERIENCE

Up in good old Holt county one mile north of Maitland and nine miles west, lives George Holtam, one of the pioneers of that county. When he came there in 1871 he had traded "sight and unseen" for a quarter section of land which at that time was worth but a trifle but is now worth \$250 per acre. Mr. Holtam worked until he had secured five hundred acres of this splendid country, after which he bought land in Kansas until he owned over four thousand acres when he gave all of it to his eight children, of whom only two now survive. "Uncle George" as he is affectionately called was born March 11, 1834, and now is in the best of health and reads good Democratic doctrine without glasses.

## SUDDEN CALLING OF IKE BINSWANGER

The sad news reached this city yesterday that Mr. I. J. Binswanger, affectionately known to his host of friends as "Ike," had passed away at his home in Kansas City, where he had lived for the past nine months, all of the rest of his life having been spent here. Beside his wife he is survived by three children, Homer, Louis and Marjorie, and was a brother of Simon Binswanger, with whom he was associated in business for many years. The funeral will occur at Kansas City Monday.

## OUR INDEPENDENCE ONLY A THEORY

The Editor of The St. Joseph Observer:

It will be necessary for us to locate the original proceedings in the Peace Conference between this country and Great Britain at the close of the Revolutionary War. I, as I supposed most everyone else has presumed, that that war had been settled, and that the United States became a republic as the result, and from that time to this the small boy has been shooting his first crackers, and the men have been eating to celebrate that great event. But one who is very learned and is a representative of this country in the way of an ambassador at the court of St. James has discovered the grave fact, that we are now and have been all along a colony of Great Britain. It would be well for everyone to read Colonel Harvey's speech at the Independence Day dinner of the American Society of London, July the 4th, and they will learn from this very learned man that we have been in error and there never has been a reason for us to reverse the 4th as the birthday of our independence as that independence never has been anything but a theory, according to Colonel Harvey.

Very truly yours,  
W. N. LINN.

July 7, 1921.

## AT THE STATE CAPITAL

### The Heated Things That Are Being Done Down There in This Heated Time.

JEFFERSON CITY, July 6.—(Central Press Service.)—One important road bill has been reported favorably by the Senate road committee. This is the bill which would amend the bill introduced by Senator Richard E. Ralph of St. Louis county, concerning mainly the features asked by the friends of hard-surfaced state highways. Senator Ralph and Representative Walter E. Bailey of Jasper county, chairman of the house road committee, had previously agreed to hold joint sessions of their committees, for open hearings, each afternoon at 2 o'clock in the hall of the house. These discussions were to begin on June 29, but the action of the senate in reporting favorably the bill mentioned without waiting for the hearings of the joint meetings is not pleasing to the house. It will require much persuasion to bring the house to an approval of the Ralph measure.

The county unit bill, changed in a few particulars as urged by Gov. Hyde in his message to the legislature, was introduced in the house of representatives by William P. Elmer of Dent county on June 27. The measure was at once rejected by a vote of the house, secured by the strategy of Representative O. B. Whitaker of Hickory county, the open foe of this act since its passage by the regular session. The county unit law, as formerly enacted, will now go to the people for approval at the next election in November, 1922. The friends of the measure have sixteen months in which to win votes enough to approve the law and make its standing entirely secure.

Representative Harry E. McPherson and Mrs. McPherson of St. Joseph came to Jefferson City for the special session in their car, and have taken one of the lodges on the banks of the Missouri, two miles from the capital. They are enjoying, with their friends, the swimming, rowing, and social pleasures of that location.

## AUTO CLUB'S SECOND TRADE TOUR

At the meeting of the tours committee of the St. Joseph Automobile Club Wednesday, it was decided to arrange for the second trade tour to be run to Clarinda, Iowa, and intermediate towns with a night stop at Tarkio. The trip will be the last of this month. The directors also decided to bear the expense of marking the new Dockery Highway between this city and Gallatin at a cost of about \$500.

## WILL PRESENT THE FOCH INVITATION

When Melvin E. Binswanger with Charles W. Bartlett and Norman B. Coleman, go to Europe next month they will carry with them the embossed invitations to Marshal Foch for his visit to Kansas City and Missouri. The three may remain to escort the Legion's guest to this country.